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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,560	12/27/2001	Douglas W. Constable	83912RRS	7551

7590 11/18/2003

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EXAMINER

BLACKMAN, ROCHELLE ANN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/033,560

Applicant(s)

CONSTABLE, DOUGLAS W.

Examiner

Rochelle Blackman

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 36-46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-22, 24, 27, 29-35, 47, 49 and 52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23, 25, 26, 28, 48, 50, 51, 53 and 54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 05/19/03 and 06/01/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 20-22, 24, 27, 29-35, 47, 49, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito, U.S. Patent No. 6,473,570.

Regarding claims 20-22, 24, 26, and 27, Ito discloses a "camera"(see FIGS. 1-6); a "first electronic circuit board having a first electronic circuit to perform a first set of camera functions..."(see 37 or 77 of FIG. 4); a "second electronic circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts..." and "wherein the second electronic circuit board comprises more than one modular circuit with each modular circuit having modular contacts"(see 41 of FIG. 4); a "frame holding the first electronic circuit"(see 3 of FIG. 4, "frame" 3 holds all the circuits seen in FIG. 4); a

"cover joinable to the frame"(see 4, 5 of FIG. 1); a "mounting between the cover and the frame, for holding the second electronic circuit board...", "said mounting comprises alignment surfaces...", and "wherein the mounting is integrally formed with the cover"(see 40 of FIG. 4); and "said second electronic circuit board comprises a flex circuit"(see col. 5, line 20).

Regarding claims 29-35, Ito discloses a "one-time use camera"(see FIG. 1); a "first circuit board having a flash circuit with a power supply, a flash capacitor charging circuit and a flash discharge circuit..." and "wherein the first electronic circuit comprises a circuit that cooperates with the camera flash charge circuit to permit the camera user to manually cause electrical energy to be stored in the flash capacitor"(see 67, 68 of FIG. 4); a "second circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts adapted to engage the first set of electrical contacts, so that the first electronic circuit can cooperate with the second electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions", "wherein the second electronic circuit comprises a charge circuit to automatically cause electrical energy to be stored in the flash capacitor", and "wherein the second electronic circuit further cooperates with at least part of the first electronic circuit to perform the at least one other set of camera functions", and "wherein the second electronic circuit further co-operates with the first electronic circuit to selectably perform either the first set or second set of camera functions"(see 41 of FIG. 4); a "camera frame joined to the first circuit board"(see 3 of FIG. 4); "said camera further having a cover joined to frame..."(see 4, 5 of FIG. 4); "wherein engagement of the first electronic circuit to the second electronic circuit disables at least one function of

the first electronic circuit" and "wherein the second set of camera functions includes selectably generating light and the light generated is exposed to encode a signal on the film"(see "first circuit board" 67, 68 and "second circuit board" 41 in FIG. 4).

Regarding claims 47, 49, and 52, Ito discloses a "method of assembling a camera to perform a desired set of functions"(see features and function of elements in FIGS. 1-6) comprising: "providing a camera frame having a first electronic system..."(see features and functions of "camera frame" 3 and "first electronic system" 38 in FIG. 4); "determining that the first electronic system cannot perform the set of desired functions..."(see function of "first electronic system" 38 in FIG. 6); "providing a mounting having a second electronic system..."(see features and functions of "mounting" 40 and "second electronic system" 41 in FIG. 4); "providing a camera cover"(see 4, 5 of FIG. 1); "assembling the camera cover to the frame with the mounting held therebetween..."(see features and functions of "camera cover" 4, 5, "frame" 3, and "mounting" 40 in FIG. 4); "wherein the steps of providing a mounting having a second electronic system comprises assembling more than one modular circuit"(see features and functions of "mounting" 40 and "second electronic system" 41 in FIG. 4); and "wherein the step of providing a second electronic circuit comprises providing a flexible circuit"(see col. 5, line 20).

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 36-46 are allowed.

2. Claims 23, 25, 26, 28, 48, 50, 51, 53, and 54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nakano et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,434,342 discloses an electric circuit board system for a camera that includes at least one main electric circuit board having a central processing unit for performing a control of a camera, and at least one connection section for having an electric connection with other electric circuit boards.

Stephany et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,462,780 discloses a first circuit board that is located in a case on one side of a battery and has a first set of power supply contacts for contacting power and ground electrodes on the one side of the battery, and one or more first signal contacts for contacting one or more of the interconnection electrodes of the battery, and a second circuit board that is located in the case on the other side of the battery and has one or more second signal contacts for contacting one or more of the interconnection electrodes of the battery.

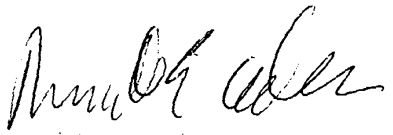
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rochelle Blackman whose telephone number is (703) 308-2879. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russell Adams can be reached on (703) 308-2847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

RB



Russell Adams